



Report to: Communities Committee, 3rd November 2021

Report of: Corporate Director - Operations, Homes & Communities

Subject: HOSTING OF THE KNIFE ANGEL – THE NATIONAL MONUMENT AGAINST VIOLENCE AND AGGRESSION

1. Recommendation

That the Committee:

- 1.1 Note the contents of this report and in particular the work being undertaken for Worcester City to host the Knife Angel during Spring 2022, supported by a programme of activities and materials to raise awareness of the impacts of violence and aggression; and**
- 1.2 Recommend to Policy & Resources Committee the allocation of £7,500 from the funding towards Arts & Cultural Events approved in June 2021 towards the costs associated with those activities outlined at recommendation 1.1.**

2. Background

- 2.1** The Knife Angel stands 27ft tall (see figure 1 below) and is made from over 100,000 knives and blades received from 43 police forces across the UK. Created by Alfie Bradley out of the British Ironwork Centre in Oswestry, the Knife Angel has toured around the UK and has become recognised as a National Monument Against Violence and Aggression (see **Appendix 1**).
- 2.2** The Angel has previously been hosted in the following towns/cities:
- Chester Cathedral
 - Derby
 - Rochester
 - Middlesbrough
 - Birmingham
 - Coventry Cathedral
 - Hull
 - Liverpool Anglican Cathedral
 - Newtown, Powys
 - Gateshead, Tyne & Wear
 - Telford and Wrekin
 - Hereford
- 2.3** Hosts of the national monument use the opportunity to raise awareness of the impact of violence and aggression on communities. The sculpture itself is very emotive and gives people the opportunity to reflect and discuss the impact on victims of aggression and violence and to promote the services and help available to people exposed to or at risk of such behaviour.
- 2.4** South Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership is the formal body meeting the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 for Worcester, Malvern and Wychavon. This multi-agency partnership works to reduce crime and improve community safety.

- 2.5 Total recorded crime data provided by West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner analysts show the volume of crime in South Worcestershire during the pandemic decreased but has now risen to pre pandemic levels.
- 2.6 Cathedral ward represented 35% of all recorded offences in Worcester City during 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 and 34% during 1 July to 31 August 2021. In the same time periods it represented: 15% and 15.6% of all crime in South Worcestershire, respectively.
- 2.7 Violence without injury is the highest recorded offence group. For the period 1 July 2021 to 31 August 2021 violent crime accounts for the three most commonly recorded offences at 31.7%. On examining individual offences, common assault and battery accounted for the largest volume of offences (14.4%). This offence refers to non-lasting injuries, like a shove. This was followed by actual bodily harm (10.9%).
- 2.8 A multi-agency approach is required to reduce the occurrence and impact of violent crime. One area of focus is on people and their behaviour which varies from education on relationships and consequences with young adults, to perpetrator programmes and repeat offender management plans.
- 2.9 Agencies and charities provide services to help people escape from domestic abuse and controlling behaviour.
- 2.10 Tackling violence from addiction and alcohol is supported by various referral agencies. The night-time economy promotes the adoptions of the Best Bar None scheme where licences put in place safeguards and procedures to protect staff and residents.
- 2.11 The City Council provides and has invested in on street CCTV surveillance to within Cathedral ward to support the police during incidents.

3. Worcester to Host the Knife Angel

- 3.1 Officers are working with partner agencies on where best to locate the Angel with the preferred option on the grounds in front of Worcester Cathedral from 1st March to 31st March 2022. When the Knife Angel arrives, the City Council and Worcester Cathedral intend to host a formal opening ceremony for South Worcestershire Civic Leaders, Dignitaries and identified Key Stakeholders.
- 3.2 Whilst in situ there will be a series of workshops within the cathedral, school visits, classroom activities and interactive events at the statue. Schools will be invited from across South Worcestershire to visit the statue to hear stories about people affected by violence and abuse and learn about the services and help that is available.
- 3.3 Guest speakers will be invited for specific events to speak about the impact violence has had on them and their families.
- 3.4 Worcester City Council will recruit and train volunteer educators to be at the statue during core times and to welcome pre-arranged visits, to present information and answer questions from visitors.
- 3.5 During the month there will be a general weapons amnesty, with the approval of West Mercia Police, in the form of a surrender secure bin which travels with the angel.

- 3.6 Partners signed up to the project to date are Worcester Cathedral, West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner, West Mercia Police and South Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership.
- 3.7 Subject to endorsement of this report further engagement will be undertaken with key partners in respect of 2 key aspects, logistical planning and community engagement. These partners will include (but not be limited to) Worcestershire County Council, Worcestershire Children’s First, Worcester Community Trust (Dawn Project), West Mercia Women’s Aid and Victim Support (West Mercia) to develop the programme of activity.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial and Budgetary Implications

Discussions that have taken place with Councils who have previously acted as hosting authority has enabled us to estimate the costs associated with the hosting of the Knife Angel as follows:

Item	Cost
Transport & Logistics (Installation)	£5,000
Security (24/7 during March 22)	£10,000
On-site Welfare Provision (March 22)	£3,000
Transport Costs (attendees to sculpture)	£5,000
Education & Engagement	£2,000
Unknown Contingencies (10%)	£2,500
Total	£27,500

In committing to hosting the Knife Angel the West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner has pledged £5000.00 initially and has confirmed that a further £5000.00 will be provided if the project includes engagement with young people associated or victims of knife crime.

Furthermore, the South Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership have approved £10,000 funding to support the project in recognition that although Worcester City will host the Knife Angel, its impact through visitors and targeted engagement and education will include and benefit the Districts of Wychavon and Malvern Hills.

Worcestershire Cathedral’s education and fund-raising team also intend to raise funds to finance workshops, educational programmes at the Cathedral.

This report therefore seeks approval for the allocation of £7500.00 to ensure that the full costs of hosting the Knife Angel and delivering an associated engagement and education campaign around it, can be met. It is proposed to meet these costs from the allocation from reserves of £50,000 towards arts and cultural events approved by the Policy & Resources Committee in June 2021

4.2 Legal and Governance Implications

No legal or governance implications have been identified in connection with this report.

4.3 Risk Implications

An onsite assessment has been carried out with Worcester Cathedral to identify the location and any implications. On-site security will be provided to cover the period of time the sculpture is in place. The monument is delivered, installed and collected by a specialist contractor.

4.4 Corporate/Policy Implications

Promoting and raising awareness of the impact of violence supports the Worcester City Council City plan theme Stronger and connected communities. The engagement and promotion of support services also contributes to the Community Recovery Strategy.

4.5 Equality Implications

There are no adverse equality implications in relation to the installation of the Knife Angel or the education and awareness raising around the impact of violence and aggression.

To ensure everyone across South Worcestershire has the opportunity to benefit from seeing the Knife Angel, schools will have transport provided for them if required, the site will be easily accessible for all and volunteer educators will be on site to answer or respond to questions.

Partners involved in delivering the project will ensure that communities and families most affected by violence and aggression will know about the Knife Angel and be given the opportunity to tell their story and or visit the monument.

4.6 Human Resources Implications

There are no HR implications associated with this report.

4.7 Health and Safety Implications

There are no H&S implications associated with this report.

4.8 Social, Environmental and Economic Implications

At full Council on 23rd February 2021 a motion was passed that council policy decisions and actions should take into consideration the impact on children and young adults.

There will be a marketing campaign to ensure all communities are aware and have the opportunity to engage with the project. The location of the angel will mean everyone should have equal access to visit the monument.

Schools and those outside of state education will be contacted and encouraged to visit the sculpture.

Transport will be provided when and where appropriate.

Ward(s): **All Wards**
Contact Officer: **Ann Nicholls - Tel: 01905 722065, Email: ann.nicholls@worcester.gov.uk**

Background Papers: **None**

Appendix 1 – Images of Knife Angel from British Ironwork Centre website.

